

Office of the Secretary, Interior

§ 4.1606

person who requested the determination shall have the ultimate burden of persuasion.

(b) If any other person is seeking review, that person shall have the burden of going forward to establish a prima facie case and the ultimate burden of persuasion that the person who requested the determination does or does not have valid existing rights.

[67 FR 61512, Oct. 1, 2002]

Subpart M—Special Procedural Rules Applicable to Appeals of Decisions Made Under OMB Circular A-76

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301.

SOURCE: 45 FR 75213, Nov. 14, 1980, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 52 FR 39525, Oct. 22, 1987.

§ 4.1600 Purpose and nature of the appeal process.

(a) This appeals procedure embodies an informal administrative review of agency decisions made under OMB Circular A-76, and is intended to assure that such decisions are fair, equitable, and in compliance with the provisions of the Circular. This procedure provides affected parties an opportunity to request that such decisions be objectively reviewed by a party independent of the A-76 decision process.

(b) This appeals procedure is administrative rather than judicial in nature, and does not provide for a judicial review or for further levels of appeal. The decisions of the appeals official are final.

(c) This procedure is intended to protect the rights of all affected parties and, therefore, neither the procedure nor agency determinations may be subject to negotiation, arbitration, or agreements with any one of the parties.

§ 4.1601 Basis for appeal.

(a) An appeal may be based only on a specific alleged material deviation (or deviations) by the agency from the provisions of OMB Circular A-76 or Supplement No. 1 thereto, the "Cost Comparison Handbook." Appeals may not be based on other factors, such as the economic impact of the agency's deci-

sion on a community, or other socioeconomic issues.

(b) This appeals procedure shall be used only to resolve questions of the determination between contract and in-house performance of a commercial or industrial type requirement, and shall not apply to questions concerning award to one contractor in preference to another.

§ 4.1602 Who may appeal under this procedure.

An appeal may be filed by any affected party, viz, employees of the Federal activity under review, authorized employee representative organizations, contractors, and potential contractors.

§ 4.1603 Appeal period.

An appeal may be submitted at any time within 45 calendar days after announcement of an agency decision regarding the method of performance of a commercial or industrial type requirement.

§ 4.1604 Method of filing an appeal.

An appeal must be in writing, and must be submitted to: Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

[45 FR 75213, Nov. 14, 1980. Redesignated at 52 FR 39525, Oct. 22, 1987. And amended at 67 FR 4368, Jan. 30, 2002]

§ 4.1605 Action by the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

(a) Upon receipt of an appeal, the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals shall designate an appeals official, who shall process the appeal.

(b) The appeals official shall promptly docket the appeal and send copies of the docketing notice to the appellant, the director or other appropriate official of the bureau or office involved, and the Solicitor of the Department.

§ 4.1606 Department representation.

(a) Upon receipt of the docketing notice, the Solicitor shall appoint counsel to represent the Department in the appeal action, and so notify the appellant and the appeals official.

(b) Within seven calendar days of his designation the Department Counsel